REMARKS

Claim 18 is pending. In response to the Office Action dated September 8, 2005, claim 18 has been amended. A petition for one month extension of the period for response, with appropriate fee charge authorization, is filed herewith in a separate paper. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully solicited.

Care has been taken to avoid the introduction of new matter. The amendment to claim 18, which is supported by Fig. 7 and its description in the specification, merely presents explicit recitation of what was previously implicitly required. Claim 18 is directed to a configuration sharing column selection lines among the blocks in relation to a data write operation. The claimed arrangement of the column selection lines and the write drivers allows the column selection lines to be shared among the blocks, based on the disclosure of Fig. 7. More specifically, claim 18 recites, *inter alia*, the following:

> a plurality of column selection lines arranged respectively corresponding to said plurality of memory cell columns, for transmitting a column selection result, each column selection line being provided to extend along a direction of the memory cell columns and shared by said plurality of memory blocks; and
> a plurality of write drivers provided respectively corresponding to said plurality of bit lines in regions adjacent to each of said memory blocks in the direction of the memory cell columns, each write driver operating in response to activation of a corresponding one of said plurality of column selection lines to supply a data write current of a direction corresponding to a level of write data to a corresponding one of said plurality of bit lines (underlined text added to original recitation).

Claim 18 has been rejected under 35 U. S. C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. patent 6,587,371 (Hidaka) as set forth at paragraph 5 of the Office Action. In contrast to the requirements of claim 18 reproduced above, Hidaka is substantially directed to a configuration for reading data in an MRAM. The block-divided configuration of shared CSL in Fig. 12, to
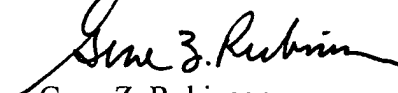
which the Office Action refers, is directed to a data read operation (column 19, lines 58-62).

Hidaka only briefly discloses a configuration for writing data, which may be found in column 12,

line 66 to column 13, line 24. Although Hidaka discloses use of a column selection result in a

data write operation in column 13, lines 18-24, it does not disclose or suggest a configuration in

which column selection lines are shared among blocks in relation to a data write operation, as

required by claim 18.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 18 is not anticipated by Hidaka. Allowance of the

application is respectfully solicited. To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time

under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection

with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and

please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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